



erased

KEI SANBE

3





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ARE YOU
WORRIED
ABOUT
SOME-
THING?

WHAT'S
WRONG?



YES!

Y...



...TO
HELP
YOU
STAY
CALM.

...IT'S
IMPORTANT
TO FOCUS
ON YOUR
NORMAL
ROUTINE...

...WHEN
EVER
YOU'RE
ANXIOUS
ABOUT
SOME-
THING...

...AND
THE
REST
OF YOU
TOO...

SATO-
SU...



I
KNOW
THAT.
BUT...

I
KNOW
...

BOW!

SAITO SU (SATO SU) ... I KNOW THAT YOU KNOW, SATO SU



OH

WELL,
THAT'S
IT FOR
FIRST
PERIOD.

RISE!

#13: Whiteout, March 1988

...THERE'S
NO WAY I
CAN JUST
GET STILL

NOT
WHEN I'VE
GOT THIS
FEELING OF
DREAD...







GET
AWAY
OF
YOUR-
SELF...

NO,
HOLD ON...
THERE'S NO
INDICATION
SHE
WAS KID-
NAPPED...

IT
CAN'T
BE...

NO
WAY...

THAT'S...

?

IT'S
LIKE
KAKURO
OJIMOTO
JUST
SAID...

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
SOMETIME
AFTER
THAT...

IT
HAPPENED
THE NIGHT
BEFORE
LAST.....

LOOKS
LIKE IT
BELONGS
TO AN
ADULT
MAN.

...A
RUBBER
BOAT
PRINT?

...A MAN
CAME
HERE...!





...CHILD
DAY!

TODAY
IS A JOY-
DAY...

SHE
ISN'T
HERE
ANYMORE...

...PLAY
THE
GAMES
AND
STUFF!

FIVE
CENT
BUBBLE-
GUM...

...SOMEONE
IS
STANDING
THE
INSIDE
OF
MY
STOMACH
WITH
AN
ICY
GLASS
PIPE.

IT'S
AS
IF...

I'VE
GOT
A
BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS.



...AND
RAGE.

...
AND-
STX...

I
FEEL
DES-
PERA-
TION...



THE
GAMES...





**KAYO HINAZUKI
DISAPPEARED ON THURSDAY,
MARCH 3, 1988.**

OR DID I
CRY FOR
MY OWN
WOUNDED
PRIDE,
NOW WORTH
LESS THAN
GARBAGE...

...AS
I STOOD
THERE
FEELING
UTTERLY
WORTH-
LESS.

WERE
THEY
TEARS
OF PITY
FOR
HINA-
ZUKI...?

AT THAT
POINT
IN TIME,
ONLY THE
MURDER-
ER AND
I KNEW
THE
REALITY.

WHY DID
I CRY
JUST
THEN?





I
JUST...

I HAD NO
REASON
TO GO
OUTSIDE.



...I
MIGHT SEE
HOMESICK
IF I CAME
TO THIS
PARK.

...
COULDN'T
HELP
HOPING...



SO I
HAD TO
COME.





...I HAD
REALLY
COME TO
CONFIRM
THE
TRUTH.

STAND-
ING
THERE,
I REAL-
IZED...



...BUT
HINAZUKI
DIDN'T
HERE
ANY
MORE.

...THE
BORDER
BETWEEN
THE SKY
AND THE
GROUND DID
APPEAR.

WHETHER
IT WAS
FROM THE
SKY
OR MY
FEARS...









I DIDN'T
MAKE A
DIFFER-
ENCE...

I KNOW
YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT
KAYO-
CHAN...

...BUT IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT SHE
WENT
MISSING.



I DIDN'T
WANT
HINAZUKI
TO BE ALL
ALONE...

YOU
DON'T
THINK?



SOME-
THING
ELSE I
SHOULD
HAVE
DONE...

THERE
MUST
HAVE BEEN
SOMETHING
ELSE.

IT
HASN'T
ENJOYED
.....

THEN
YOU SUC-
CEDED.



INSTEAD,
THINK ABOUT
WHAT YOU
DID RIGHT.

YOU
CAN'T DWELL
ON WHAT
YOU MAY OR
MAY NOT
HAVE DONE
WRONG.

SA-
TORU.



...SO
I CAN'T
HELP
FEELING
THAT I
FAILED.

IT'S
JUST
THAT...

...I'M
ONLY
HERE
BECAUSE
OF
REVENGE...

MY EFFORTS
TO SAVE
HIMSELF ONLY
MADE WHAT
HAPPENED
BREAK MY
HEART ALL
THE MORE...

THIS
"SECOND
TIME
AROUND"
CONTIN-
UES...?

DO
NOW
REPEAT
AND
REPEAT

I LIVE
MY LIFE A
SECOND
TIME, BUT
WITH WHOLE
CHANGES...?





THAT DAY,
KAGURO-
SENSEI
GAVE US
AN UPDATE
ABOUT
HANAOKO.

I MADE
MYSELF
GO TO
SCHOOL
THE NEXT
DAY.

Source: 100 Japanese Manga with English Subtitles



WHEN I
SAID SHE
WAS AT
HOME WITH
A COLD...

...I WAS
LYING.

THERE'S
SOME-
THING...

...I'VE
BEEN
KEEPING
FROM YOU
ABOUT
KAYO.



IT HAPPENED
SO SUDDENLY
THAT SHE
WASN'T ABLE
TO TO SAY
GOOD-BYE
TO YOU...

...BUT I
HEAR KAYO
IS DOING
WELL IN
SAPPORO.

...KAYO
HAS COME
TO LIVE
WITH HER
GRAND-
FATHER,
FOR VARIOUS
PER-
SONAL
REA-
SONS...



...AND
HER
MOTHER
STUCK
TO
HER
STORY.

KINO
WENT
TO
SCHOOL
AS
USUAL
THAT
DAY.

HER
BODY
HADN'T
BEEN
FOUND...

FROM: MURAKAMI, JUN. AND KAWANO, CHIKO

さがしています。



中西 彩 さん

年 級 小 学 校 1 年 級

身長 125cm
体重 25kg
髪色 黒
髪型 短髪
目色 黒
瞳色 黒
誕生日 1998年 10月 15日



BECAUSE
ONLY
SIX
DAYS
AFTER
HINAKUNI
DISAP-
PEARED—

...THAT
PREVENTING
THE
EARLY
STAGES
OF
THE
INVESTIGATION
FROM
BECOMING
PUBLIC
WAS
ONE
FACTOR
THAT
FACILITATED
THE
SECOND
DISAPPEAR-
ANCE.

LATER,
AUTHOR-
ITIES
WOULD
SAY...

AFTER
THE
SECOND
INCIDENT,
NEW
RULES
WERE
PUT
IN
PLACE.

WHEN
THEY
DO
LEAVE
SCHOOL
GROUNDS,
THEY
SHOULD
ALWAYS
BE
WITH
A
GUARDIAN.



CHILDREN
ARE
NOT
ALLOWED
TO
GO
ANY-
WHERE
ALONE
OUTSIDE
OF
SCHOOL
GROUNDS.

THE
CITY
HAS
ISSUED
AN
ADVISORY.

IT
WAS
TWO
DAYS
AFTER
KINO
NAGASAKI
WENT
MISSING.

THIS
SOON...IT



KINO
NAGASAKI
HAS
DISAP-
PEARED!

CRAP!

ABOUT THE
GIRL FROM
IZUMI
ELEMENTARY
WHO DISAP-
PEARED...?

SATORU...
HAVE YOU
HEARD?



...THIS IS REALLY A CASE
OF SERIAL ABDUCTIONS.

...WE'VE
BEGINNED
DOWN THE
SAME
SERIES OF
EVENTS AS
EIGHTEEN
YEARS AGO...

...BUT
THERE'S
NO
CONNECTION...

SOME
OF THE
DETAILS
DIFFER...

SCREEN AIRING CANCELED IN HONOLULU, OFFICIALS SAY

HOWEVER,
THEY LIMITED
THEIR
REPORTS ON
THE INCIDENTS
TO EARLY IN
THE MORNING
AND LATE
AT NIGHT.

...AND TV
ISHIGAKI
REPORTED
ON IT.

THE
INVESTIGATION
BECAME
PUBLIC...

WIDE TV CANCELED

I FEEL
POWER-
LESS...

ON TOP
OF THAT,
ADULTS WITH
CHILDREN
WERE ADVISED
TO ONLY LET
THEM WATCH
TV ISHIGAKI.





...HANG-
ZUO'S
MOTHER
THREW
OUT...



JUST
TEN DAYS
AFTER HER
DAUGHTER
DISAP-
PEARED...

AND ILLUSTRATED BY: KIMURA TETSUO



...A PAIR
OF HAND-
KNIT
MITTENS.

AND
ALSO
...

...HANG-
ZUO'S
CLOTHES,
EVEN
THOUGH
NOBODY
KNEW
WHETHER
SHE WAS
ALIVE OR
DEAD...

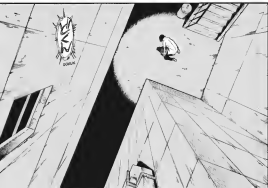
...YOUR
PRESENT
TOMORROW

I'LL GIVE
YOU...

THAT'S A
PROMISE.











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*SOMEONE'S COMING...
I HAVE TO GET AWAY...!!*

**DAM-
MIT...**



**IN
2006...**

**...I'M
FRAMED
FOR
MUR-
DER!**



SH...

GOD...

**...
DAM-
MIT!!**



#14: Under Siege, May 2006



I WAS NAIVE GOING IN.

...PUT ME
AT AN
ADVANTAGE.

I WAS
DOOMED
FROM THE
MOMENT I
THOUGHT
THAT BRING
TWENTY-
NINE...

JUST
LIKE
NOW

I DIDN'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN
ONE
HOUR
TO THE
NEXT.

NO.

"I
KNOW
THE
FUTURE?"

...AND
DEALT
MORE
SERIOUSLY
WITH THE
ABDUCTION

I
SHOULD
HAVE
REALIZED
THAT...

I WAS A
TEN-YEAR-
OLD CHILD
WITH JUST A
LITTLE MORE
EXPERIENCE
AND KNOW-
LEDGE THAN
AVERAGE...

I
COULDN'T
HELP
MOM-
DAD...



...AND
I'M THE
SUSPECT...



MOM'S
STILL
BEEN
MUR-
DERED...

...I'M
FACED
WITH.



THIS
IS THE
REALITY...

...BUT
IT JUST
HAD-
PENED...



IT
FEELS
SO
LONG
AGO TO
ME...





SAITAMA PREFECTURAL POLICE



THEY'VE
ALREADY
GOT THE
AREA
COR-
DONED
OFF...!

THE
POLICE
...!

...IF MOM
IS STILL
IN THE
APART-
MENT.

I
WON-
DER...



...AND
YET IT
DOESN'T
FEEL
QUITE
REAL.

I'M RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THIS...



POPO
CHANGING

AND
I'M
SURE
THEIR
NEXT
STEP...

...I'M
SURE
IT IS.

IS ALL
THAT
FOR ME?

WHAT
ARE
THOSE
COPS
DOING?



MY
STOMACH
SUDDENLY
ALERTS...

wow...



...WILL BE
TO HUNT
FOR ME.





...AND
GO AFTER
THE REAL
KILLER?

WOULD
THE
COPS
BELIEVE
ME...

SHOULD I
JUST SHOW
MYSELF
AND TELL
THEM THE
TRUTH...?



I'M SURE
THEY'LL FIND
ONLY MY
FINGERPRINTS
ON THE
MURDER
WEAPON.

THE
KILLER
IS A
CLEVER
BAG-
TARD.



...I
DOUBT
IT.

SOME-
HOW...



...AND THAT I
"FLED THE SCENE"
TONIGHT RIGHT
AFTER MOM WAS
MURDERED, BOTH
WITNESSED BY
MY LANDLADY.

ON TOP
OF THAT,
THERE'S
MY ARGU-
MENT WITH
MOM
THE DAY
BEFORE...

NO, IT
DOESN'T
LOOK
GOOD
FOR ME.



...BUT
WAITED FOR
ME IN MY
LANDLADY'S
YARD IN
ORDER TO
FRAME ME.

WHAT
REALLY
HAPPENED
IS, THE
KILLER
DIDN'T RUN
AWAY...



...NO
ONE IS
GOING TO
BELIEVE
THAT.

...NO,
NOT
JUST
THEM
...

BUT THE
COPS...



...SO IF THEY
DISE ME INTO
CUSTODY,
THERE'LL
BE NO ONE
TO TRACK
HIM DOWN.

THERE'S
ONLY A SLIM
POSSIBILITY
THE POLICE WILL
PURSUE THE
REAL GUILTY...



...AND NOW
I HAVE TO
USE IT TO
PREDICT THE
FUTURE??

BEFORE
I HAD TO
BACK MY
BRAIN TO
FOCUS
ON THE
PAST...



WHAT
SHOULD
YOU DO
NOW?

THINK!

YOU'VE
GOTTA
ACCEPT
PRESENT
CIRCUM-
STANCES.



...BE-
CAUSE
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
ANSWER.

STEEL
YOUR-
SELF...

...
ESCAPE!





SHINGO: 1000 JPY





*DURING
THE
DAY, I'LL
PROBABLY
STAND
OUT LESS
IF I'M IN
TOWN...*

*THE
FRONT DESK
AT A HOTEL
WOULD MAKE
ME NERVOUS...*

FRONT

*...I'M
SCARED
OF BEING
SEEN.*

*EVEN
THOUGH I
HAVEN'T
MADE
THE NEWS
YET...*



WAS
HER BAG
THERE?

WAS
MOM'S
CELL PHONE
IN THE
BAGGY-
MINTY?

TRY
TO RE-
MEM-
BER.

...NO,
NOTHER
HIS
THERE.



TO
PROTECT
HIMSELF,
HE TOOK
THEM
AWAY.

HE MUST
SUSPECT
MOM SENT
INFORMATION
ABOUT HIM
TO SOMEONE
ELSE.

ANYBODY
WOULD
HAVE...

IF SHE
DID, TO
WHOM
WOULD
SHE EVEN
SEND IT?



THE
KILLER
TOOK
THEM.



...SO I
CAN'T
BUY FOR
SURE
THAT
SHE
DIDN'T.

I HADN'T
WITH
THEM THE
WHOLE
TIME THEY
WERE
MAKING
THAT
CURRY...

DON'T TELL
ME SHE
ASKED AIRI
FOR HER
CELL PHONE
NUMBER...

NOW...



OR AM
I BEING
PARA-
NOID?

IS
AIRI AT
RISK?

ONLY A
HANDFUL
OF THEM
INCLUDE
CELL
PHONE
NUM-
BERS...

NOW
PROBABLY
HAS
SOMETHING
LIKE THIRTY
TO FIFTY
ENTRIES
IN HER
ADDRESS
BOOK.



SO
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO
ABOUT
IT...

IN ANY
CASE, I
DON'T
KNOW AIRI'S
NUMBER
MYSELF.



...THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO...!

WHETHER
IT'S 1988
OR 2008...

NOTHING I
CAN DO...

...HINA-
ZUKU...!



IN THE
FIRST
PLACE...

OR WILL I
BE ABLE
TO RETURN
TO HER
AGAIN?

...IS
THAT
HOW IT
ENDS?

I FAILED
WITH
THAT
REVIVAL.

BOY: WHITE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7 BANNER ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1998 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND THE
REVIVAL
THAT
HAPPENED
RIGHT
AFTER HER
DEATH
EITHER.

NO,
WAIT.

WHY?

MCN'S
DEATH...?

THE REVIVAL
THAT DIDN'T
GIVE ME A
CHANCE TO
SAVE HER...



...WHAT
TRIGGERED
THAT HUGE
REVIVAL?





AFTER
REVIVAL,
I CHARGED
AFTER
HER MUR-
DERER.



THE
FIRST TIME
AROUND,
I TRIED
USING CPR
ON MOM.

AFTER ALL,
REVIVAL
DIDN'T TAKE
ME BACK
THERE
AGAIN...



I THINK
THAT
WAS THE
"RIGHT"
THING TO
DO.

...AND HE
ESCAPED
DOWN THAT
NARROW
ALLEY.



BUT I FELL
INTO THE
KILLER'S
TRAP...

IT MIGHT
EVEN HAVE
BEEN THE
KILLER...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
OVER
THERE?

A SE-
CURITY
GUARD?

A
COPY

THEN
SOME-
BODY
GAME.





SCENE: TOKYO, JAPAN



SCENE: TOKYO, JAPAN





IT ACTUALLY
WORKS OUT
THAT I WAS
SCHEDULED
FOR A SHIFT
TODAY.

I
APOLOGIZE
FOR
TODAY...

...YOU'VE
EVER
BLOWN
OFF
WORK.

SA-
TORU-
KUN...
...THIS
IS THE
FIRST
TIME...

WELL,
KNOWING
YOU, I'M
SURE YOU
HAD A GOOD
REASON.

I'M
REALLY
SORRY.

THAT'S
RIGHT...
I FORGOT
I HAD MY
PHONE ON
MANNER
MODE.

I KEPT
TRYING TO
CALL, BUT
YOU DIDN'T
PICK UP...

IT SEEMS
HE HADN'T
HEARD ME...

...WHICH
ONLY MADE
KATASHI-
KUN WORRY
ABOUT
YOU TOO.

SO IS
ANY
SAFE FOR
THE ONE
BEING?

ANY-
WAY, DAT.

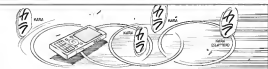
THANK
YOU.





















WHAT...!?



"IT
CAN BE
CHAN-
GED."

THE NEGATIVE
EMOTIONS THAT
HELD MY HEART
IN THEIR PAINFUL
GRIP EASED WITH
ONE THOUGHT...

GRIP...

AND...

DES-
PERA-
TION...

**IF I CAN GO BACK TO 1988
ONE MORE TIME...!**



I'M
STILL
IN THE
DARK...

...BUT
FAR,
FAR
AWAY..

...I FELT
I COULD
SENSE
A FAINT
LIGHT.

#14 END

I THINK THERE ARE
MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE.







"TWENTY-
TO FIFTY-
YEARS-OLD,"
"ATTEMPTED"
ABDUCTION..."

DATA
DATA
DATA
DATA



I HARDLY
HAVE ANY
CLUES TO
WORK WITH
TO HELP ME
TRACK DOWN
THE MAN WHO
MURDERED
MY MOTHER.

IF I
CONCENTRATE
ON
GREEN
AREAS...

...LISTED
AS
MISSING
NATION-
WIDE.



...THERE
ARE OVER A
THOUSAND
ELEMENTARY
AND MIDDLE
SCHOOL
STUDENTS...

AT
PRES-
ENT...

NO
THERE
ARE
PROBABLY
EVEN
MORE.

ONLY
KIDS WHO
HAVE BEEN
MISSING
FOR MORE
THAN A
YEAR ARE
COUNTED.



...THAT
MORNING IT
DOWN TO AN
ESTIMATED
FIFTY TO A
HUNDRED
MISSING KIDS
IN GREEN
PREFECTURE
ALONE.

I
WONDER
IF THE
LIBRARY
IS OPEN.

SATURDAY,
AHH...?



...THE
INTERNET
HON'T BE
ENOUGH.

IF I WANT
TO DO AN
IN-DEPTH
INVESTIGA-
TION...

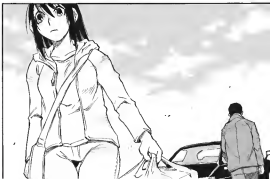














...DO
WHAT YOU
CAN TO
HELP HIM
OUT.

IF YOU
HAPPEN
TO RUN
INTO
HIM...

...SO
CONTACT
ME IF
YOU SEE
HIM!

WE'RE
ALL ON
THE SAME
SIDE...

...I
WILL!

えん
さん
さん
さん

THANK
YOU!

えん
さん
さん
さん

JUST
DON'T BE
CARELESS.



SCENE - TOKYO, CENTRAL LIBRARY





DAY 300000







P

...MUM
...P



IT ONLY
JUST OC-
CURRED TO ME...

THAT
WAS RIGHT
BEHIND
YOUR PLACE,
WASNT IT,
MANAGER?



YOU
SAID WE
WERE
ALL...

...ON
THE
GAME
SIDE...

YOU
TOLD ME
TO HELP
SATORU-
SAN.



...SUS-
PECTED
OF MUR-
DER...



I AM...

...WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU...

YOU KNOW
WITH
SATORU-
KUN...

Y- YOU
HAVE THE
WRONG
IDEA.
AIRI-
KUN...!

送





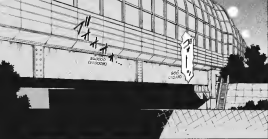
...THEN
DON'T
CALL THE
POLICE
OVER TO
THIS
HOUSE.

IF
YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT
AIRL...



I'M
INDEBTED
TO THESE
PEOPLE.













...THOUGHT
HE
REALLY DID
STEAL IT.

BUT ALSO
...
...I
GUESS
MY
MOM...

NOT IN
FRONT
OF
ANY...

I THINK HE
COULDN'T
DEAL WITH
BEING
BRANDED
A THIEF.



...IF I
TOOK SIDES,
ALLOWED
MYSELF TO
HATE EITHER
MY FATHER
OR MOTHER.

I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
MAKE ME
FEEL
BETTER...

IT MADE
ME WANT
TO STOP
BELIEVING IN
PEOPLE.



THAT
WAS
YEARS
LATER.

ANY
COULDN'T
I BELIEVE
ANY MORE
THAT?

BUT MOM
ONCE
SAID...



...AND
DECIDED
TO KEEP
BELIEVING.

I REALIZED
THAT
BELIEVING IN
PEOPLE IS
ONE OF MY
STRENGTHS,
NOT A
WEAKNESS...

...BOTH
MY
PARENTS.

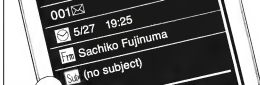
FROM THAT
TIME ON,
I DECIDED
I WOULD
CONTINUE
LOVING...



END SAGA 02







EH...?

This is Satoru
Fujinuma. Stay right
where you are.











#16: Mother, May 2006















NEVER
MIND HIS
LATERIOR
MOTIVES...

I
REMEMBER
HOW HE
DID THE
BURNING
ON HIS
FACE...

I'LL TAKE
THAT TO
MEAN HE
WASN'T TELL
ANYONE
I WAS
THERE...

I'M
TAKING
THE
BODY
FOR
THIS.

THE
ISSUE
IS...

...THAT
FIRE!

IF
SHE'S
IN THE
HOSPITAL,
SHE
SHOULD
BE SAFE
FOR THE
TIME
BEING.

I
FOREGO
...
...IT
WAS A
GOOD
IDEA FOR
AISI TO
STAY AWAY
FROM ME
ANYWAY.

WHY
WOULD
SHE...?

AISI
GAVE
ME HER
PHONE
...

...BUT
I WAS
WORRIED
ENOUGH
TO RISK
RETURNING
TO THE
SASAKURA
HOME, ONLY
TO FIND IT
ON FIRE...!

AT
FIRST I
THOUGHT
I WAS
JUST
BEING
PARA-
NOIA...

I WON-
DERED
WHETHER
AISI
WOULD
BE A
TARGET.

THAT
MOMENT

10
7

Times

...OH
RIGHT.

NOW
DID HE
FIND OUT
WHERE
SHE
LIVED...?

DON'T
TELL
ME THE
KILLER
DID THIS
TOO...?



THIS
PROVES
IT...!

THE FIRE
WAS SET
TO TARGET
AIRI...!

THIS
IS A
MESS-
AGE...

...FROM
THE
KILLER!



.....!

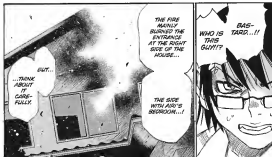


...SO THE
POLICE
WOULDN'T
SEE THIS
MESSAGE.

AIRI
SLIPPED
HER PHONE
TO ME...

...I
DID
IT!

AND IT'S
BEEN
MADE
TO LOOK
LIKE...



BUT...
...THINK
ABOUT
IT
CARE-
FULLY.

THE FIRE
MAINLY
BURNED
THE
ENTRANCE
AT THE RIGHT
SIDE OF THE
HOUSE...

THE SIDE
WITH AIRI'S
BEDROOM...!

BAS-
TARD...!!
WHO IS
THIS
GUY?!



AIRI'S ADDRESS MIGHT'VE BEEN ON MOM'S PHONE, BUT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM THE LOCATION OF HER BEDROOM...!

HOW DID HE KNOW WHERE AIRI'S ROOM WAS?



...OR HE FOLLOWED AIRI AND CONFIRMED WHERE HER ROOM WAS!

IN OTHER WORDS, HE EITHER KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING...



...OR I FIND HIM FIRST!

EITHER I GET CAUGHT FIRST...



HE MAY BE CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT.

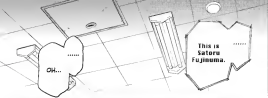
I'LL SEARCH FOR HIM...!



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COFFEE, COFFEE AND LIGHT FOOD, HAKUHO-TEI



OVER
HERE.

HI,
SATORU-
KUN!

WEL-
COME!

I'M
RELIEVED.

YOU
REALLY
ARE
SATORU-
KUN!

I'M
SAKADA,
FORMERLY
ON THE CITY
DESK...
...AT
TV
TOKYO.

GOOD
TO MEET
YOU.





YOU'RE NOT
RESPONSIBLE
FOR ANY OF
THIS.

RESPON-
SIBLE?

WHAT
YOU NEED
TO DO IS
LOOK AHEAD
WITH A
POSITIVE
STATE OF
MIND.

PUTTING
ALL THE
BLAME ON
YOURSELF
IS JUST
BEING
CONCEITED.

...BUT I
ALWAYS
LIKED IT.

ACTUALLY,
THAT ADVICE
COMES
SECONDHAND
FROM
GACHO-
SAN...

...BUT I'M
ALREADY
STARTING
TO TRUST
ADM.

THERE'S
STILL A
POSSIBILITY
THAT GACHO
IS THE
MURDERER...





DON'T
TELL
ME....!!

WHAT
ARE
YOU...

...THE
KILLINGS
FROM
EIGHTEEN
YEARS
AGO...??



WHAT??

ABOUT
KAYO
HIMEDORI-
CHAN'S
DEATH...

...TALK
ABOUT
WHAT
HAP-
PENED
BACK
THEN.

WHY
DON'T
WE...



...KAYO
WAS BEATEN
BY HER
MOTHER AND
HER MOTHER'S
BOYFRIEND
AND WAS
LOCKED IN
THE STORAGE
SHED.

ON THE
NIGHT OF
MARCH 2,
THREE NIGHTS
AFTER ME AND
HIMEDORI'S
BIRTHDAY PARTY...

THIS IS
SANDRAN'S
OUTLINE OF
THE CRIME.



HIMEDORI'S
MOTHER
DISCOVERED
THE DISAP-
PEARANCE AT
12:30 A.M. ON
THE THIRD.
SHE CALLED
THE POLICE
HOUSE AND
CASUALLY
INQUIRED
ABOUT HER
DAUGHTER'S
WHERE-
ABOUTS.

...BUT
KAYO WAS
ACTUALLY
TAKEN FROM
THE SHED
WITHOUT THEIR
KNOWLEDGE
BETWEEN 10
AND 11 P.M. ON
THE SECOND.

SHE
FLEDGE
TO
DEATH.
AT
FIRST,
THE
POLICE
SUS-
PECTED...

...THE
MOTHER
AND THE
BOY-
FRIEND
MUST
HAVE
HIDDEN
THE
BODY...

5-5

ONE PIECE
OF EVIDENCE WAS
THE FOOTPRINTS
AROUND THE
BED, MADE BY
RUBBER BOOTS
THAT MATCHED A
PAIR OF BOOTS
FROM THE
SARAYORI HOUSE.

THE
CULPRIT
WHO TOOK
KAYO AWAY
WAS JUN
SARAYORI.



WHEN
HER BODY
TEMPERATURE
DROPPED
BELOW
SEVENTY
DEGREES,
SHE WAS
BRAIN-
DEAD.

HE PUT HER
IN THE COLD
STORAGE ROOM
OF HIS FAMILY
BUSINESS
(WHERE KAYO'S
BLOOD WAS
FOUND) AND
USED A SPRAY
TO ACCELERATE
HER DEATH BY
FREEZING.

CHITTY
ALSO KEPT
HER FROM
SARVERING.
THE BODY'S
NATURAL
FORM OF TEMPERA-
TURE PRESERVA-
TION.)

SARAYORI
BURY KAYO,
ENCODING
HER UN-
CONSCIOUS,
AND THEN
PHOTO-
GRAPHED
HER.

THE
POLICE
WENT
PUBLIC
WITH
THEIR
VERSION
OF THE
EVENTS.



KAYO'S
MOTHER
FOUND HER
DAUGHTER'S
BODY AFTER
SHEEN IN THE
MORNING ON
THE FLOOR.

...THEN
RETURNED
HER FROZEN
CORPSE TO
THE HINAGATO
BED (BEFORE
SUNRISE
GOLD 4 A.M.)

SARAYORI
WAITED ABOUT
THIRTY MINUTES
WHEN SHE HAD
ALMOST ZERO
CHANCE OF
RECOVERY...



...WOULD
NEVER
HAVE
DONE
THAT!

YUUKI-
SAN...



...THERE WAS ANOTHER SERIES OF ABDUCTION MURDERS IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER.

NOT LONG BEFORE KIYO-CHAN AND THE OTHER TWO WERE KILLED...

WOULD YOU LISTEN TO MY OWN THEORY, SATORU-KUN?

I AGREE WITH YOU.

...AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, DO YOU NOTICE A COMMON LINK?

ASSUMING SOMEONE ELSE REALLY WAS THE PERPETRATOR...

NOW

...BUT, LIKE JUN SHIRATORI, HE DENIED ANY WRONG-DOING.

THE CULPRIT WAS QUICKLY ARRESTED...

...
AH!

!

...WHO INVESTIGATES CRIMES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLVED.

I'VE BEEN RECRUITED AS "THAT WEIRDO FREELANCE REPORTER"...

I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN DIGGING INTO THESE CASES FOR YEARS.



**THE
TRUTH IS,
NONE OF
THEM ARE
SOLVED.**

**BOTH
KAYO
HINAZUKI
AND
SACHIKO-
SAN...**

**...WHOSE
M.O. IS
GIVING THE
POLICE
A GIFT-
WRAPPED
SUSPECT!**

**...WERE
MURDERED
BY THE
SAME
BASTARD...**

...HE
DIDN'T
LEAVE ANY
CLUES
BEHIND.

TO BE
HONEST,
AS SURE
AS I AM
ABOUT
THIS...

...IN
THIS
CITY?

AND NOW
HE'S...

SATORU-KUN...
IF THE POLICE
CATCH YOU,
YOU MAY BE
BEYOND HELP...



AS A
RESULT, THE
INVESTIGATION
GETS FURTHER
AND FURTHER
AWAY FROM
HIMSELF.

THAT INTERM
REDUCES
EYEWITNESS
TESTIMONY AND
ALLOWS
CIRCUMSTANCES
AT THE CRIME
SCENE TO
CHANGE...

HE BUYS
TIME BY
FRAMING
SOMEONE
ELSE.

HE'S A
CRAFTY
SON OF A
BITCH.



SATORU-
KUN...



...I'D
BEEN A
LITTLE
MORE ON
THE
BALL...

IF
ONLY...



IT
REGARDS
YOUR
TESTIMONY
BACK THEN.

NO
OJING

ALL
IT

...I WANT
TO TELL
YOU ABOUT
SACHIRO-
SAN.

THERE'S
ONE
MORE
THING...





...THIS IS
THE KILLER'S
FIRST CRIME.

I DON'T
THINK...

ACH-
NOMI-
KUN...



NEITHER
DO I.



I TOLD
HER MY
HYPOTH-
ESIS.

YOUR
MOTHER WAS
A FORMER
JOURNALIST,
SO I WANTED
TO GET HER
OPINION.



WHEN
THERE
WERE STILL
A LOT OF
OTHER
SUSPECTS
BESIDES
SHIRATORI.

THIS
WAS JUST
BEFORE
YOUR FRIEND
HIROMI
SUGITA-KUN
DISAPPEARED
...



...AND
A GOOD
ADVISED.

SHE WAS
A GOOD
FRIEND...

...AND
SHARED
HER
VALUABLE
OPINION.

SAKINO-
KUN
AGREED
WITH ME...



...THAT
DROVE US
APART.

BUT
SOMETHING
HAPPENED...

...HUH?

...IT
WAS
YOU.

IRON POLICE EDITION

AROUND
THAT TIME,
SACHINO-SAN
CHOSE TO
MAKE YOU HER
NUMBER-ONE
PRIORITY OVER
EVERYTHING.

AFTER
SHERATONE
WAS ARRESTED,
YOU MADE A
STATEMENT TO
THE POLICE.
BUT YOUR
TESTIMONY WAS
IGNORED...

TAU/T
TIME...

...IT WAS
MY TURN TO
AGREE, BUT
WITH HER
DECISION.



IT'S
JUST
THAT
AT THE
TIME...

THE
TRUTH
IS, SHE
BELIEVED
YOU.

...DON'T
HOLD A
GRUDGE
AGAINST
SACHIRO-
SAN.

...BUT...
SA-
TORU-
KUN...

...I CAN
TELL THAT
WASN'T
NECESS-
SARILY
THE RIGHT
THING TO
DO...

SEEING
YOU
NOW...

...HOW-
EVER IT
MAY HAVE
SEEMED
TO YOU...

...SHE
WAS...

...TRYING
TO BE
YOUR
MOTHER...





JOHN CORNELL HOSPITAL





...OUR
NEXT
ORDER OF
BUSINESS
IS GETTING
HIM ON
THE WANTED
LIST.

AG FOR
GATORU
FILE-
NIMA...

GET
EVERY-
THING
READY.

S...

FOR NOW,
WE'VE
GOT ASRI
KATAGIRI...

...IN
CUSTODY.

JUST
INCREASE
THE
NUMBER
OF
GUARDS
ON HER.

SAY
WHAT
!?



WOMAN: COULD YOU CHECK ON HER EVERY HOUR?

MAN: CHECK EVERY HOUR? POLICE



CERTAINLY.

IT'S FOR HER OWN SAFETY.



AND SHE WAS IN ON IT...?

SHE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL, THOUGH...

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AT HER NOW.

SATORU FUJIKUMA...



...THEY'RE WRONG.

WHAT KIND OF BASTARD GETS A GIRL LIKE THAT CALLED UP IN HIS HUSBAND?

THAT'S TERRIBLE.

...AND ONCE THAT WAS DONE WE TRIED TO SILENCE HER.

I GUESS SHE HELPED HIM KILL THE MOTHER...



#17: Slight Clue, May 2006



IS THIS
HOW
OTHER
PEOPLE
SEE
IT...?

Male
Mystery
Subject
Target
Known
to
Criminals

**Fugitive
Suspect
Responsible
for
Arson?**



HOW OTHER PEOPLE SEE US



IS
HE
ALL
ALONE?

I
WONDER
WHAT
HE'S
DOING
RIGHT
NOW

SU-
TORU-
GAN...





ACCORDING
TO THE NEWS,
SHE WASN'T
HURT BADLY,
BUT I'M SURE
SHE'S STILL IN
THE HOSPITAL.

YES...

A
MESSAGE
WAS
SENT FROM
SACHINO-
SAN'S PHONE...

...TO
THAT
GOLD?



THE GIRL
MAY ALSO
HAVE SEEN
HIM...

HE WAS
PROBABLY
HOPING SHE
WOULD DIE IN
THE FIRE.

I
SEE...

THIS
IS IT.



...AND THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE DRAWN AWAY FROM THE TRUE CRIMINAL...

IF YOU WERE ARRESTED, THE POLICE WOULD BE FOCUSED ON BUILDING A CASE AGAINST YOU...

OF COURSE, HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO FRAME YOU FOR ARSON...
...AS A PLOT TO HELP THE INVESTIGATION ALONG...



...BECAUSE I SCREWED UP.

SHE BECAME INVOLVED IN THIS...



IT'S NOT AS IF YOU WANTED TO GO TO HER HOUSE, RIGHT?

YOU'RE WRONG THERE TOO.

SA-TORU-KUN.



...AND IT WAS
SHE WHO
CHOSE TO
STEP IN AND
HELP YOU.

INVOLVING
HER WAS
THE KILLER'S
INTENTION ALL
ALONG...



...AND
MEETING
YOU HAS
BEEN PART
OF THAT
INVESTIGA-
TION.

IT'S
BEEN MY
CHOICE TO
CONTINUE
PURSUING
THESE CRIMES...

I'M
THE
SAME
WAY.

I DON'T
THINK OF
IT AS YOU
"GETTING ME
INVOLVED"



I DID...A
LITTLE.

...YOU
BLAMED
YOURSELF
FOR BUR-
DENING ME
WITH THIS.

I
BET...



THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR YOU
TO FEEL
RESPONSI-
BLE.

MY
FATE
IS MY
OWN.

...AS
"FATE."

I THINK OF
AN INEVITABLE
ACCUMULATION
OF RESULTS...





HE WAS A
WOLF WITH
HORNES...

ALL YOU
NEED TO DO IS
ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT GIFT.

THE
POLICE ARE AT
THE HOSPITAL
FOR ONE THING.
I REALLY DON'T
THINK HE'LL
TRY TO HARM
HER AGAIN...

THE KILLER
IS ALREADY
DONE WITH HER.

...I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER.

EVEN
SO...

...BUT I
DO FEEL
A LITTLE
BETTER
NOW.

...I WOULDN'T
HAVE ANY
REASON TO
KILL HER...
AIRE KATASHI,
I MEAN.

EVEN
SUPPOSING
I'D MURDERED
MY MOTHER...

WAIT.

IT JUST
DOESN'T
ADD UP.

THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT
AT FIRST
TOO...

...YOU TRIED
TO MURDER HER
FROM TALKING,
EITHER AS A
"WITNESS" OR AN
"ACCOMPLICE."

...HIS
PLAN WAS TO
MAKE IT
LOOK LIKE...

NOT UN-
LESS
...



...THERE
WOULD'VE
BEEN NO
NEED FOR
THAT.

...BUT...

...THE
MOMENT
THE COPS
MARKED
ME AS A
SUSPECT...



...SO...

...THAT
MAKES ME
THINK THERE
MUST HAVE
BEEN SOME
OTHER REASON
HE HAD TO SET
THAT FIRE.

...AND I'M
THE PRIME
SUSPECT...

THE POLICE
ARE THINKING
ALONG THE
LINES OF A
"FORM OF
PASSION" OR
THAT
THE KILLER
ACTED ON A
PERSONAL
GRUDGE...



FROM
THE "KILLER'S"
PERSPECTIVE,
I CAN SEE THE
BENEFIT OF
DOING THAT BY
FORCING YOU
TO PLAY THE
FUGITIVE...

...BUT
I CAN'T
SEE HOW
"GATORU
FUKUNUMA,
CRIMINAL"
WOULD
BENEFIT.

...BUT MAY
OR MAY
NOT HAVE
SEEN HIS
FACE AT THE
SITE OF AN
ATTEMPTED
ABDUCTION...

HE WENT
TO A LOT OF
TROUBLE
AND RISK
TRYING TO
MURDER A
GIRL WHO
HAD NO
SOLID PROOF
AGAINST
HIM...









"I think Jun Shiratori suspects his own father of being the killer."

THAT
WOULD
BE VERY
LIKE
YASUO-
SAN,
WHO
DEARLY
LOVED
HIS
FATHER.

THIS
INFOR-
MATION
IS NEW
TO ME...

That may help explain why this young man ultimately ended up receiving the death penalty

His continued refusal to say anything that might incriminate his father when offering evidence and an alibi only made himself look even worse

Satoru Fujimaru's testimony was ignored, but it seems much was made of the other student's testimony

A classmate reported seeing Kayo Hinazuki and Jun Shiratori together three times

WHAT
!?

!

SHE GOT
THOSE
WORKS FROM
KUSO-GUN,
JUST LIKE I
DO.....!

I'M GLAD I
MASTERED
UP THE
COURAGE
TO COME
HERE.

.....

.....

.....

AND
THERE
ARE
ONLY
FIVE...?

I DON'T
KNOW ANY
OF THESE
NAMES
OTHER THAN
KUSO-GUN
AND HIS
FATHER...

A LIST OF
SUSPECTS?

"The police guessed that Hiromi Sugita (a boy) was murdered after being mistaken for a girl. From this, the police compiled a final list of five suspects who weren't acquainted with Hiromi Sugita."





...SO HE
KILLED HIM
JUST TO
KEEP HIM-
SELF OFF
THE LIST OF
SUSPECTS!

HE
KNEW
HIROMI
WAS A
BOY...



Photos taken at the time of Hiromi
Sugita's death were confiscated
from Shiratori's food storage room
but were not made public for several
years out of consideration for Hiromi
Sugita and his bereaved family.

Jun Shiratori was arrested after
someone in the neighborhood
reported that he'd been seen
approaching and talking to a third-
grade boy when he was alone.

"From these photos, the police concluded
that Jun Shiratori had homosexual and
pedophiliac tendencies."



**IT'S ALL
CAMOUFLAGE
TO DRAW
ATTENTION
AWAY...**

**...FROM
THE REAL
KILLER!**

They also collected
homosexual
publications from Jun
Suzuran's bedroom.

**THAT
KIND OF
STUFF
WASN'T
THERE!**

**WHERE
IS IT?**

**THE
LIST OF
SUSPECTS
COMPILED
BEFORE
AKOMI'S
DEATH...**

**Y-YOU
BAST-
ARD...**

**...MUST
BE ON
THAT
LIST!!**

**THE
KILLER'S
NAME...**



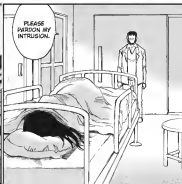
CHŪŌ GŌHŌ RYŌIN (CENTRAL HOSPITAL)





REAL HUNTER BOARD















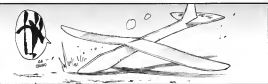














I WONDER
IF THIS IS
WHAT IT
FELT LIKE
FOR KUNO-
SAN...

WHY



AFTER
IT!

...I'LL
TAKE A WALK
BEFORE
SOMEONE
REPORTS
ME.



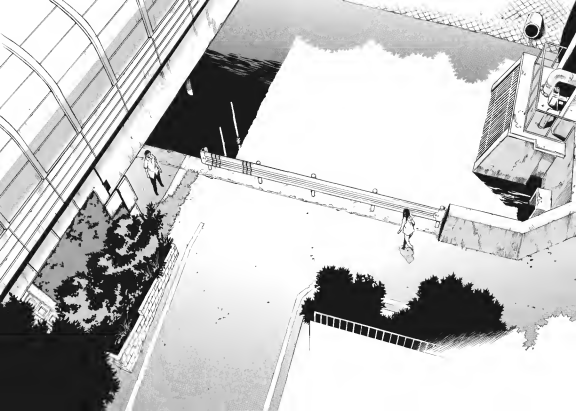
DID I WANT
TO HEAR
ABOUT THE
KILLER SO
BADLY THAT
I TOOK AN
UNNECESSARY
RISK...?

WELL,
HERE
I AM
AGAIN...

EVEN
THOUGH WALK-
ING AROUND IN
BROAD DAYLIGHT
INCREASES THE
ODDS THAT
THE COPS WILL
FIND ME...







YEAH.

AS
PROMISED,
I CAME
ALONE.

YEAH.

I'M HERE,
SATORU-
SAN.

I'M LATE
BECAUSE
I WENT A
ROUNDABOUT
WAY IN CASE
THE POLICE
WERE
FOLLOWING
ME.

YEAH.





...AND FROM THE
BADGE HE
WEARS, I'D GUESS
HE'S A CITY
COUNCIL-
MAN.

THE
MANAGER
CALLS HIM
"SENSEI"...

I'VE SEEN
HIM TWO
OR THREE
TIMES AT
WORK.

NISHI-
ZONO...?

NISHI-
ZONO...?

NISHI-
ZONO...

THAT
RINGE A
BELL FOR
SOME
REASON

I
MET HIM
BRIEFLY
ONCE.

HE
WOULDN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO SEE THE
SCHEDULE...

...AND IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
HARD FOR HIM
TO FIND OUT
WHERE WE
LIVE.

small windows floor

WHAT
HAS HIS
GIVEN NAME
AGAIN?

...BECAUSE
I KNOW
HIS FACE.

I
THINK HE
TARGETED
ME...

OH...
THE SIGN
IN THE
WINDOW.

IS
HE THE
ONE??

.....

DID NISHIZONO MURDER HINAZUKI AND HIROMI!?



...BUT THE
MORE HE
ACTS, THE
MORE OTHER
PEOPLE GET
INVOLVED
AND SUFFER
IN TURN.

HE
STRUGGLES
TO PUT
THINGS
BACK THE
WAY THEY
WERE...



ABOUT A
GRIM REAPER
WHO MAKES A
SCHEDULING
MISTAKE THAT
RESULTS IN
THE DEATH OF
A CHILD.

...OTHER
PEOPLE GET
HURT.



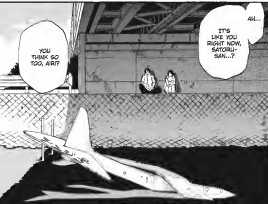
...WHEN
HE GETS
MIXED UP
IN IT...



EVEN
THOUGH
HE MEANS
TO DO
THE RIGHT
THING...

PLATE 50/51

YOU
THINK SO
TOO, AIR?



IT'S
LIKE YOU
RIGHT NOW,
SATORU-
SAN...?

AH...







...YOU ARE
UNDER
ARREST.

FOR THE
MURDER OF
SACHIKO
FUJINUMA,
ATTEMPTED
MURDER
AND
ARSON...

SATORU
FUJI-
NUMA.



SHUN
SHUN



The
suspect

...was
appre-
hended
at 4:58
p.m.





IS THIS
HOW IT
ENDS?

IS
THIS THE
END?



THERE'S SO
MUCH I STILL
HAVE TO DO...



DID IT
NEED A
TRIGGER?

WHAT
CAN I DO
TO SET
IT TO
ACTIVELY?

SHOULD
I TRY TO
ESCAPE
...?

COME ON, REVIVAL...
LET'S GO!!

REVIVAL
ISN'T
WORKING
YET





EVEN IF
ESCAPING
DID TRIGGER
REVEAL...

NO...



...THAT
SHOULDN'T
BE MY
PRIORITY
RIGHT
NOW.

I WAS
PREPARED FOR
MY CURRENT
RELATIONSHIP WITH
AIDA TO TERMINATE
HERE, EITHER
THROUGH ARREST
OR REVEAL...

AND
HERE
IT IS.

THE THING
I NEED TO
DO RIGHT
NOW IS...

MY LAST
MOMENT
WITH AIDA.



WHAT WOULD A HERO SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?





...BE-
CAUSE...

...YOU
BELIEVED
IN ME.

I CAN
STILL
HANG IN
THERE...



THANK
YOU...

...
AIRI.

I'M
GLAD I
BELIEVED
IN YOU.







ARTIST: CHIBA KAZUO, POLICE





ON MAY 29 AT
4:50 P.M., CHARGED
WITH MURDER,
ATTEMPTED MURDER
AND ARSON,
**SATORU
FUJINUMA
WAS
ARRESTED.**

STAFF

Kel Soehn

Yoichiro Teraoka
Masumi 18-years-old
Shunzi Takagi
Zakka Ozaki
Kouji Kikuta

Keishi Kamekura

BOOK DESIGN
Yukie Hoshino
VOLARE Inc.

EDITOR
Tsunemori Matsunaga

STRANGE, EVERY- DAY LIFE

13.10



THE TOTAL
COST OF THE
ELECTRONICS
WITHIN THE AIR
CONDITIONER
WAS ABOUT
¥200,000, SO
I WAS REALLY
NERVOUS...
(LAL)



THINKING THE
TECHNICAL
LEVEL'S BEST
IN I THEN
CONSTRUCTED A
"FORM GUTTER"
SYSTEM.

...BUT IN
THE END
I DECIDED
THE CASE
WAS TOO
LOW-OF-THE-
MILL. THERE
WOULD HAVE
BEEEN



AFTER
WATER
RELEASED
THE HOP
RECORDED
PARTICLE
WAVE IN,
THE
RECORDED
TRAINED
BETTER
PUNNY



SOUND
DID
ONE TO THE
UNDEE-
COUNTED
WAVE, MY AIR
CONDITIONER,
IN OPERATION
DAYS, BEING
STAYING
WATER.

ILLUSTRATED BY: M. H. H. H. H. H.

WAS WHEN I WAS
GOING BEHIND
HARVESTABLE
POT DUNNED LET
THEM LAUGH...

AND
THEY
SAID...

RAGE.



A
CAT.

OF
ALL
THINGS...

THERE ARE
HUNDREDS OF
CATS IN THE
AREA, BUT
THIS ONE'S
DIFFERENT.
SO I RAN
BEHIND THE
HOUSEHOLD
APPLIANCES
TO FIND THE
ORIGINAL
CAT...



THE
CAT
IS
THE
CAT...

THAT'S
WHAT A REALLY
GOOD CASE
WAS THE
FIRST ONE
WHEN I
CLEANED
UNDER THE
STAIRS, I
DISCOVERED
SOMETHING...

ONE
DAY...



EXIT

THE FIRST
FLOOR OF
THE BUILDING
LOOKED LIKE
THIS, MORE
OR LESS.

EVERY
DAY...

LEADS
TO THE
BACK

ONE AFTER-
NOON AS I
WAS FEELING
A BIT DOWN
ABOUT
SOMETHING, I
CAME ACROSS
THE INTERIOR...

THE
BUILDING
WAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT

THAT'S
WHAT A
STORY
ABOUT
MY
TODAY...



THE
WIFE
SAID, SO I
WAS IN
A BATHROOM,
WHEN I SAW
THE CATS
WALKING
TOWARD...

BY THE WAY, I
REMEMBER
I DIDN'T SEE
ANYTHING
AND I WAS
ALONE...



IN
AND
OUT

A WOMAN
WAS
THROWING
HER BODY
AGAINST
THE CLOSED
DOOR, BUT
SHE WAS
NOT...

THE
WIFE
WAS
CRIES-
ING...

AFTER ABOUT TWENTY OR THIRTY TIMES,
THE MOVEMENTS BECAME MORE OF A...

Translation notes

Common Honorifics

an-honourific: Indicates familiarity or closeness. If used without permission or request, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr/Ms/Mdm. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the full-safe honorific.

-sensei: Conveys great respect, may also indicate the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-dono: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to one's pets or animals of either gender.

-sama: A respectful title for students, artists, or high-level professionals.

Common Conversions

While conversions were discussed daily, an easy reference for Japanese-Yen conversions is ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 24

Girls' Days: Also known as the Doll Festival. Held on March 3, this holiday celebrates and promotes the growth and happiness of young girls. Families with daughters put beautiful (and expensive!) traditional dolls on display.

Page 24

Hishiohoshono: A well-known when noodle shop relatively close to Sapporo, Hokkaido. Also see *chiku when* noodle.

Page 174

God of misfortune: Traditionally a god or spirit that punishes a human being or a house, subsequently occurring poverty and misery.

erased

ERASED³

KEI SANBE

Translation: Sheldon Draka
Lettering: Abigail Hackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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